In the Claims

The status of claims in the case is as follows:

1   1.   [Currently amended] A method for maintaining

2   synchronization of ledger accounts between a back-end

3   procurement system and a front-end requisition and catalog

4   system on behalf of a plurality of customer companies of an

5   enterprise providing procurement services to a plurality of

6   company groups, each said company group including a

7   different plurality of said customer companies, comprising

8   the steps of:

9   associating a plurality of said customer companies

10   within a company group, [[the]] said customer companies

11   within said company group using ~~the same~~ a same chart

12   of accounts which varies with respect to a chart of

13   accounts associated with a different company group of

14   customer companies of said enterprise;

15   maintaining a requisition and catalog system at each

16   said customer company;

17   maintaining ~~a chart~~ said chart of accounts in said

18   procurement system at said enterprise;

19   periodically extracting from said chart of accounts,

20   account identification indicia and descriptive

21   information for a given customer company;

22   communicating said account identification indicia and

23   descriptive information to said requisition and catalog

24   system for each said customer company of a given

25   company group;

26   at said requisition and catalog system, storing said

27   indicia and information in a data store of valid

28   general ledger accounts associated with said company

29   group for said given customer company;

30   associating commodity codes with said account

31   identification indicia;

32   pushing commodity code/account identification

33   associations to all other companies in said company

34   group of said given company;

35   responsive to a user request for a requisition of a

36   commodity, providing a selection list of valid account

37   codes and descriptions authorized for purchase by users

38   from companies within said company group.

      2.   [Canceled]

      3.   [Canceled]

1   4.   [Currently amended] A procurement accounting system

2   for a plurality of customer companies of an enterprise

3   providing procurement services to a plurality of company

4   groups, each said company group including a different

5   plurality of said customer companies, comprising:

6   a back-end procurement system;

7   a front-end requisition and catalog system;

8   a first chart of accounts store maintained in said

9   procurement system;

10   a second chart of accounts maintained in said

11   requisition and catalog system of a given customer

12   company within a given group of customer companies

13   which differs from a chart of accounts for a different

14   group of said customer companies;

15   an extract utility at said procurement system for

16   periodically extracting from said first chart of

17   accounts, account identification indicia and

18   descriptive information for a given company;

19   an update utility at said requisition and catalog

20   system for associating said account identification

21   indicia with commodity codes and company group codes;

22   [[and]]

23   a data store for storing said indicia and information;

24   a company group table for storing company identifiers

25   associated with each of a plurality of company group

26   codes;

27   said update utility further for pushing to all

28   companies within a company group code associations of

29   commodity codes and account identification indicia

30   entered for a given company within said company group

31   codes; and

32   an output device responsive to a user request for a

33   purchase of a commodity for displaying a selection list

34   of valid account codes and descriptive information for

35   said company group code.

      6.   [Canceled]

      7.   [Canceled]

1   8.   [Currently amended]   A program storage device readable

2   by a machine, tangibly embodying a program of instructions

3   executable by a machine to perform method steps for

4   maintaining synchronization of ledger accounts between a

5   back-end procurement system and a front-end requisition and

6   catalog system on behalf of a plurality of customer

7   companies of an enterprise providing procurement services to

8   a plurality of company groups, each said company group

9   including a different plurality of said customer companies,

10   said method steps comprising:

11   associating a plurality of companies within a company

12   group, [[the]] said companies within said group using

13   [[the]] a same chart of accounts which differs from a

14   chart of accounts for a different group of said

15   companies;

16   maintaining a chart of accounts in said procurement

17   system;

18   periodically extracting from said chart of accounts,

19   account identification indicia and descriptive

20   information for a given company;

21   communicating said indicia and information to said

22   requisition and catalog system of said given company;

23   at said requisition and catalog system, storing said

24   indicia and information in a data store of valid

25   general ledger accounts associated with said company

26   group code for said given company;

27   associating commodity codes with said account

28   identification indicia;

29   pushing commodity code/account identification

30   associations to all other companies in said company

31   group of said given company; and

32   responsive to a user request for a requisition of a

33   commodity, providing a selection list of valid account

34   codes and descriptions authorized for purchase by users

35   from companies within said company group.

1   9.   [Currently amended]   A computer program product or

2   computer program element for maintaining synchronization of

3   ledger accounts between a back-end procurement system and a

4   front-end requisition and catalog system on behalf of a

5   plurality of customer companies of an enterprise providing

6   procurement services to a plurality of company groups, each

7   said company group including a different plurality of said

8   customer companies according to method steps comprising:

9   associating a plurality of companies within a company

10   group, [[the]] companies within said group using

11   [[the]] a same chart of accounts which differs from a

12   chart of accounts for a different group of said

13   companies;

14   maintaining a chart of accounts in said procurement

15   system;

16   periodically extracting from said chart of accounts,

17   account identification indicia and descriptive

18   information for a given company;

19   communicating said indicia and information to said

20   requisition and catalog system;

21   at said requisition and catalog system, storing said

22   indicia and information in a data store of valid

23   general ledger accounts associated with said company

24   group code for said given company;

25   associating commodity codes with said account

26   identification indicia;

27   pushing commodity code/account identification

28   associations to all other companies in said company

29   group of said given company;

30   responsive to a user request for a requisition of a

31   commodity, providing a selection list of valid account

32   codes and descriptions authorized for purchase by users

33   from companies within said company group.

1   10.   [Canceled]

2   11.   [Canceled]